

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A mower deck, comprising:

a cutting chamber defined by a top wall, a front wall and plurality of side walls including a first side wall defining a side discharge opening of the mower deck for dispersion of grass clippings away from the mower deck;

a plurality of cutting blades positioned within the cutting chamber, including a central cutting blade and a pair of side cutting blades, each cutting blade defining a circular blade tip path; and

a plurality of flow control baffles positioned within the cutting chamber including a first flow control baffle being movably connected to the mower deck, said first flow control baffle being selectively movable between a pair of orientations within the cutting chamber, said first flow control baffle defining a movable wall having a first end proximate to the side discharge opening and a second end further within the cutting chamber and ahead of the central cutting blade during forward movement of the mower deck toward a center of the mower deck, said first flow control baffle laterally extending in front of substantially the entire blade tip path of one of the side cutting blades and in front of at least a portion of the blade tip path of the central cutting blade.

and said first end being movable relative to the side discharge opening to control a flow of grass clippings out of the side discharge opening of the mower deck.

2. (original) The mower deck of claim 1, wherein the plurality of flow control baffles further includes a stationary baffle having a semicircular portion.

3. (original) The mower deck of claim 1, wherein the first flow control baffle is attached to the mower deck by at least one threaded fastener.

4. (original) The mower deck of claim 1, wherein the first flow control baffle is attached to the mower deck by at least one fastener having a portion thereof which is accessible at an upper surface of the top wall of the mower deck.

5. (original) The mower deck of claim 4 wherein the at least one fastener is received within a slot in the top wall of the mower deck.

6. (original) The mower deck of claim 5 wherein the slot defines a range of motion of the first flow control baffle and restricts the first flow control baffle from contact with one or more of the plurality of cutting blades.

7. (original) The mower deck of claim 5 wherein the first flow control baffle includes an ear element which minimizes a flow of grass clippings through the slot.

8. (original) The mower deck of claim 4, wherein the at least one fastener includes a cam lock.

9. (original) The mower deck of claim 8, wherein the first flow control baffle is selectively secured to the mower by a pair of cam locking threaded fasteners.

10. (original) The mower deck of claim 1 wherein the first flow control baffle pivots between the pair of orientations within the cutting chamber.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The mower deck of claim 1 wherein the first flow control baffle is generally linear in form.

13. (original) The mower deck of claim 12 wherein the first flow control baffle includes an elongated box-shaped reinforcement structure.

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14. (original) The mower deck of claim 1 further comprising:  
indicia providing information related to at least the pair of orientations of the first flow control baffle within the cutting chamber.

15. (original) The mower deck of claim 1 wherein the first flow control baffle is attached to the mower deck by at least one fastener having portion thereof which is accessible at an upper surface of the top wall of the mower deck, and wherein an indicia related to a pair of orientations of the first flow control baffle is provided at a location proximate to said at least one fastener.

16. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:  
providing a mower deck having a top wall and a plurality of other walls together defining a cutting chamber, said mower deck having a side discharge opening through which grass clippings are thrown away from the mower deck, and said mower deck having a plurality of three cutting blades within the cutting chamber including a central cutting blade and a pair of side cutting blades, with each cutting blade having a generally circular cutting blade tip path;

securing a flow control baffle within the cutting chamber at a first position with fasteners accessible at the top wall, said first control baffle extending into the cutting chamber toward a center of the central cutting blade mower deck and ending proximate to the side discharge opening, and said first flow control baffle laterally extending in front of substantially the entire blade tip path of one of the side cutting blades and in front of at least a portion of the blade tip path of the central cutting blade;

loosening the fasteners securing the flow control baffle;  
moving the flow control baffle to a second position within the cutting chamber;  
and  
securing the flow control baffle at the second position by tightening the fasteners.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

determining a turf condition and then moving the flow control baffle to the second position based on the turf condition.

18. (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

referring to an indicia on the mower deck including information related to the first and second positions of the flow control baffle within the cutting deck.

19. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the fasteners include threaded portions and cam locking portions.

20. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the flow control baffle pivots within the cutting chamber between the first position and the second position.

21. (currently amended) A turf cutting deck comprising:

a top wall, a front wall, a back wall, and at least one side wall, together defining a downwardly directed cutting chamber;

a side discharge opening through which grass clippings are thrown away from the turf cutting deck;

a plurality of cutting blades within the cutting chamber including a central cutting blade and a pair of side cutting blades and each having a blade tip path; and

a plurality of flow control baffles contained within the cutting chamber, at least one of the plurality of flow control baffles having an arcuate portion which extends partially around a blade tip path, and ~~at least~~ one of the flow control baffles being selectively movable between a pair of orientations within the cutting chamber and having a movable end proximate to the side discharge opening of the cutting chamber and another end further within the cutting chamber toward a center of the central cutting deck, said one flow control baffle laterally extending in front of substantially the entire blade tip path of one of the side cutting blades and in front of at least a portion of the blade tip path of the central cutting blade and ~~said at least one of the flow control baffles~~ controlling a flow of grass clippings through the side discharge opening of the turf cutting deck.

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22. (original) The turf deck of claim 21 further comprising positioning indicia visible to a user from above the cutting deck, said positioning indicia indicating a range of positions of the selectively movable flow control baffle within the cutting chamber.

23. (original) The turf cutting deck of claim 21, wherein the selectively movable flow control baffle is attached to the mower deck by at least one threaded fastener having a portion thereof which is accessible from above the cutting deck.

24. (original) The turf cutting deck of claim 23, wherein the at least one fastener includes a cam lock.

25. (original) The turf cutting deck of claim 21 wherein the selectively movable flow control baffle pivots between within the cutting chamber.

26. (original) The turf cutting deck of claim 21 wherein the selectively movable flow control baffle includes a first end located proximate to a centerline of the cutting deck and a second end located proximate to a side discharge chute.

27. (previously amended) The mower deck of claim 1 wherein the first control baffle has a length measured between a pivot point and an opposite end which is greater than a length of the cutting blades.

28. (previously amended) The turf deck of claim 21 wherein the at least one of the flow control baffles has a length measured between a pivot point and an opposite end which is greater than a length of the cutting blades